

United Nations

Daily Highlights

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T U E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- + United Nations mission headed by Secretary-General's newly-appointed Special Representative for Nagorno-Karabakh, Omar Halim, to visit that region during second half of November.
- + In Angola, efforts are underway to work out modalities for continuation of cease-fire, according to United Nations official.
- + In General Assembly yesterday, Secretary-General opens debate on Rio Conference report; Assembly's consideration of Secretary-General's Work of Organization report and "Agenda for Peace" report to continue in meeting tomorrow in informal, open-ended working group.
- + Nearly \$600 million in cash and contributions promised to World Food Programme at FAO/United Nations Joint Pledging Conference on Development Activities.
- + Egypt tells Special Political Committee that situation in occupied territories remains very serious, despite hopes in Middle East peace process.
- + Control of illicit drug trafficking part of a wider United Nations peacemaking role, International Drug Programme Director tells Third Committee.
- + Joint Russian Federation/United States space project endorsed by United Nations as "practical demonstration" of productive conversion of military systems facilities.

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A United Nations official announced today that a mission headed by Omar Halim, Deputy Director of the Europe Division in the Department of Political Affairs, would visit Nagorno-Karabakh during the second half of November. Mr. Halim, who has been appointed as the Secretary-General's Special Representative for the region, will be accompanied by Horst Heitmann, Political Affairs Officer in Mr. Halim's Department.

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Earlier last week, the Security Council supported the appointment of a special representative to the area, saying that his mission would be "to examine what contribution the United Nations could make in support of the efforts of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to enable the early convening of the Minsk Conference to solve the conflict". The Council appealed for the immediate beginning of political negotiations for a comprehensive settlement.

In a related development, the authorities of Nagorno-Karabakh have written a letter to the Security Council pledging their cooperation with United Nations representatives and others to ensure the cessation of hostilities and the organization of the humanitarian assistance.

The letter was signed by Georgi Petrossian, Chairman of the Legislature of Nagorno-Karabakh, dated 31 October.
Document S/24751

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In Angola, efforts are underway to work out modalities for a continuation of the cease-fire which is still more or less holding, according to a United Nations official today. Kofi Annan, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, is currently in Luanda to try and organize a meeting with Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and the leader of National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), Jonas M. Savimbi.

In a statement over the weekend, the Secretary-General called on the parties to end hostilities and desist from any acts that would worsen the already precarious situation, which developed after the Presidential elections held at the end of September.

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Economic growth was the mainspring of development -- of improving human well-being, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali told the General Assembly yesterday, as it began its consideration of the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The thrust of economic growth must be guided by equity, justice and social and ecological responsibility, if development was to endure. "This, in my view, is the meaning behind 'sustainable development'", he said.

The key objective in the restructuring of the Secretariat, he went on, was to build a unity of purpose for the economic, social and environmental sectors of the United Nations and to strengthen linkages between them and the political and humanitarian sectors of the Organization. The United Nations' complex field operations should incorporate an integrated approach to peace and development.

The UNCED recommended that the Assembly endorse three major documents adopted in Rio. They are the "Rio Declaration on Environment and Development" - a set of 27 principles concerning individual and national behaviour in

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pursuit of economic and environmental sustainability; "Agenda 21", a programme of action extending into the twenty-first century, dealing with the relationship between environment and economy; and the "Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus in the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests".

Also yesterday, the President of the General Assembly, Stoyan Ganev (Bulgaria), announced that from the extensive consultations he had conducted during the past week with representative of Member States a broad consensus had emerged that consideration of the Secretary-General's report on the Organization and of his "Agenda for Peace" should continue in an informal, open-ended working group and in the Assembly's Main Committees. He would chair the first such working group meeting tomorrow, 4 November.

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A total equivalent to \$593,619,724, representing \$220,384,783 in cash and contributions of commodities worth \$373,234,941 were promised to the World Food Programme (WFP) over the course of two meetings of the joint Pledging Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities.

The first segment of the joint Pledging Conference, which opened yesterday, covered only WFP, and up to this date, 19 countries have announced specific pledges.

The second segment of this Conference where participants are to pledge support for development activities such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) was due to begin this morning.

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Although new hope had been raised by the Middle East peace process, the situation in the occupied territories was still very serious, the representative of Egypt told the Special Political Committee today, as it continued consideration of the activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

There was no marked improvement in Israel's occupation policies, Abderahman Salaheldin said, which called into question the credibility of the Israeli Government in the peace process.

The Egyptian representative went on to say that the fact that the United Nations had been invited to participate in the talks reflected a clear recognition of the contributions the Organization could make in reaching and implementing a peace process.

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The Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, Giorgio Ciacomelli, today told the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee), that drug abuse control was part of the wider peacemaking role of the United Nations, when one considered the role played by the illicit drug economy in war and organized violence.

Introducing the reports before the Committee on drug control, Mr. Ciacomelli said that countless armed conflicts were being "fed and financed" by the illicit profits of drug traffickers and organized crime. To combat the problem, he said that, in the short term, demand and supply must be reduced with aggressive measures against trafficking, and that the main supply reduction activity was alternative rural development.

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The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs has endorsed the objectives embodied in a cooperative Russian/United States space project, scheduled to take place on 19 November.

According to a press release issued by the Office yesterday, the "Europe-American Space Flight 500", involving organizations in both countries, is viewed as an "admirable example" of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, as well as a practical demonstration of the conversion of military systems and facilities to productive uses.

The United Nations endorsed the project as a follow-up to the International Conference on Technology Assessment in Aerospace Conversion for Development, which was held in Moscow under United Nations sponsorship last October.

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